

Having, thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

1 1. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for rotatable
2 placement on the base unit;
3 said base unit comprising
4 a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section;
5 a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;
6 a control unit disposed in the housing;
7 a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the
8 control unit;
9 at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing; and
10 an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;
11 said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body and a cover
12 comprising a valve, said cover being sealably attachable to said main body.

1 2. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a
2 storage section formed therein, and a hinged cover over said storage section.

1 3. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cradle section of the
2 housing has at least one arcuate cutout formed therein to allow a user to insert a hand
3 below a portion of said canister as it rests on said cradle section.

1 4. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said canister cover comprises
2 a valve and handle assembly which allows air to enter said canister in an open position
3 thereof.

1 5. The food treatment apparatus of claim 4, wherein said valve and handle
2 assembly comprises a ball valve which is operatively connected to a handle, wherein
3 pivoting movement of said handle causes corresponding responsive movement of said
4 ball valve.

1 6. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said main body of said
2 canister is translucent.

1 7. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the main canister body has a
2 plurality of grooves formed in a side thereof, said grooves being alignable with rollers of
3 said base unit.

1 8. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a vacuum line with
2 a built-in fluid trap for interconnecting said base unit to said canister, wherein said
3 vacuum line comprises a connection fitting for inserting into an opening in said canister
4 valve, wherein said connection fitting has at least two O-ring seals thereon.

1 9. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises four
2 rollers, at least one of which is driven by said motor.

1 10. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises a
2 raised grid having air inlet slots formed therein.

1 11. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for
2 rotatable placement on the base unit;
3 said base unit comprising
4 a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section, the
5 housing having at least one vent opening formed therein;
6 a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;
7 a control unit disposed in the housing;
8 a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the
9 control unit; and
10 at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing, and
11 an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;
12 said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body which is
13 substantially translucent, and a cover comprising a valve, said cover being
14 sealably attachable to said main body.

1 12. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises
2 a storage section formed therein, and a hinged cover over said storage section.

1 13. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cradle section of the
2 housing has at least one arcuate cutout formed therein to allow a user to insert a hand

3 below a portion of said canister as it rests on said cradle section.

1 14. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein said canister cover
2 comprises a valve and handle assembly which allows air to enter said canister in an open
3 position thereof.

1 15. The food treatment apparatus of claim 14, wherein said valve and handle
2 assembly comprises a ball valve which is operatively connected to a handle, wherein
3 pivoting movement of said handle causes corresponding responsive movement of said
4 ball valve.

1 16. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein the main canister body has
2 a plurality of grooves formed in a side thereof, said grooves being alignable with the
3 rollers of said base unit.

1 17. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a vacuum line
2 with a built-in fluid trap for interconnecting said base unit to said canister, wherein said
3 vacuum line comprises a connection fitting for inserting into an opening in said canister
4 valve, wherein said connection fitting has at least two O-ring seals thereon.

18. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises four
rollers, at least one of which is driven by said motor.

1 19. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for
2 rotatable placement on the base unit;
3 said base unit comprising
4 a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section;
5 a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;
6 a control unit disposed in the housing;
7 a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the
8 control unit;
9 at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing; and
10 an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;
11 said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body and a cover
12 comprising a valve, said cover being sealably attachable to said main body,
13 wherein the main canister body has a plurality of grooves formed in a side
14 thereof, said grooves being alignable with the rollers of said base unit..